

B O R O U G H O F A L D E B U R G H .

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R

1950.

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The Mayor,
Aldermen and Councillors of
THE BOROUGH OF ALDEBURGH.

Mr. Mayor,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1950. This is my fourth annual report to this authority and it has been prepared more or less on the same lines as previous reports.

It is pleasing to record that during the year under review the health and general well being of the Borough have maintained an exceptionally high level and there has been a noteworthy freedom from epidemic disease.

From the point of view of the general sanitary state of the town, progress continues to be made in various directions.

The vital Statistics are of interest in that they confirm that in spite of fluctuations in Births and Deaths the population seems to be at least maintaining its numbers while the absence of Still Births and Infantile Deaths is a matter for some satisfaction and is to some extent a measure of the adequacy of the environment.

I would like to thank both Councillors and Officials for their continued support and co-operation during the year.

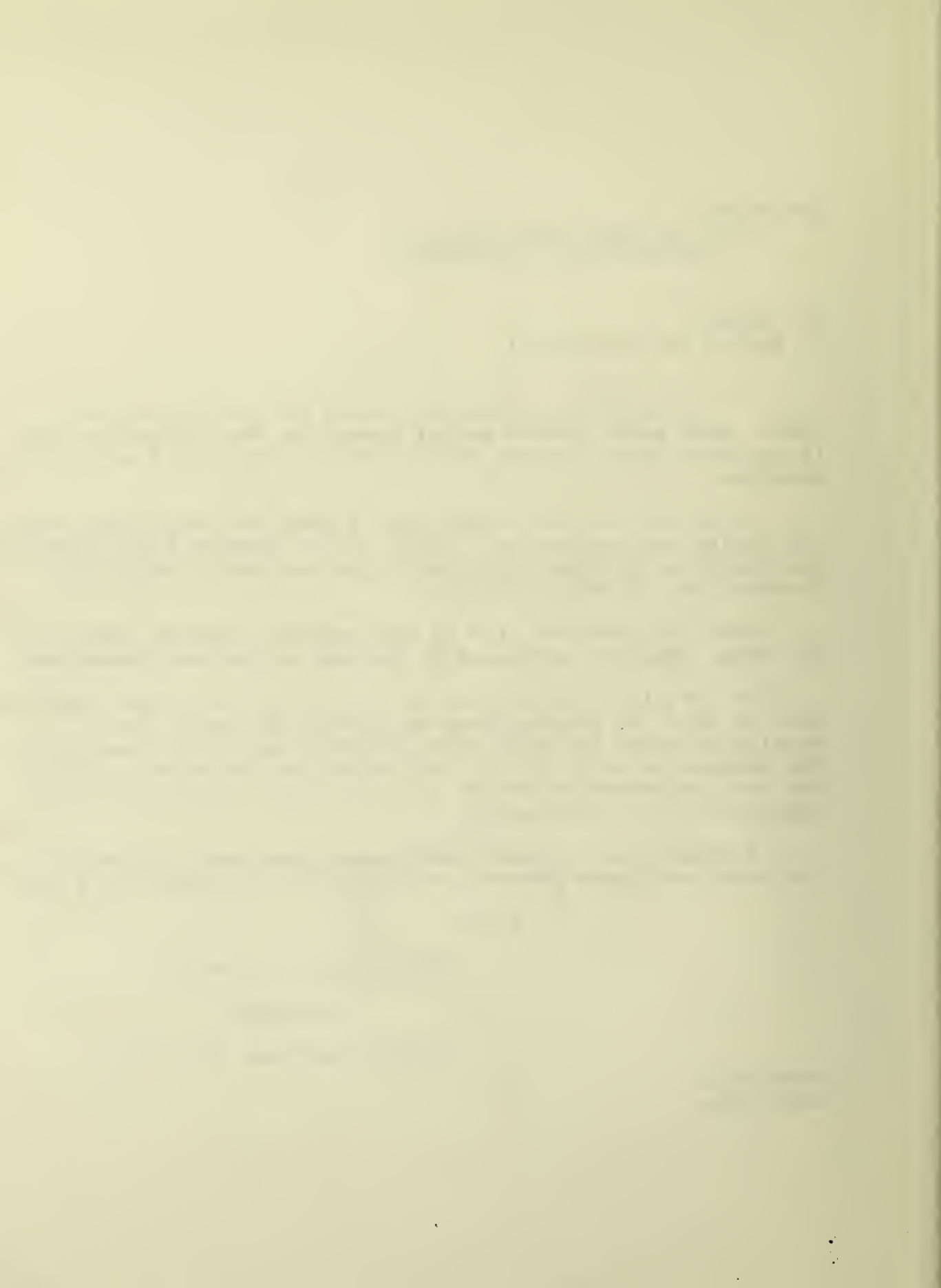
I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
Aldoburgh.



B O R O U G H O F A L D E B U R G H .

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Officers:

C.H.IMRIE, T.D., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

P.V.DAVIES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT.

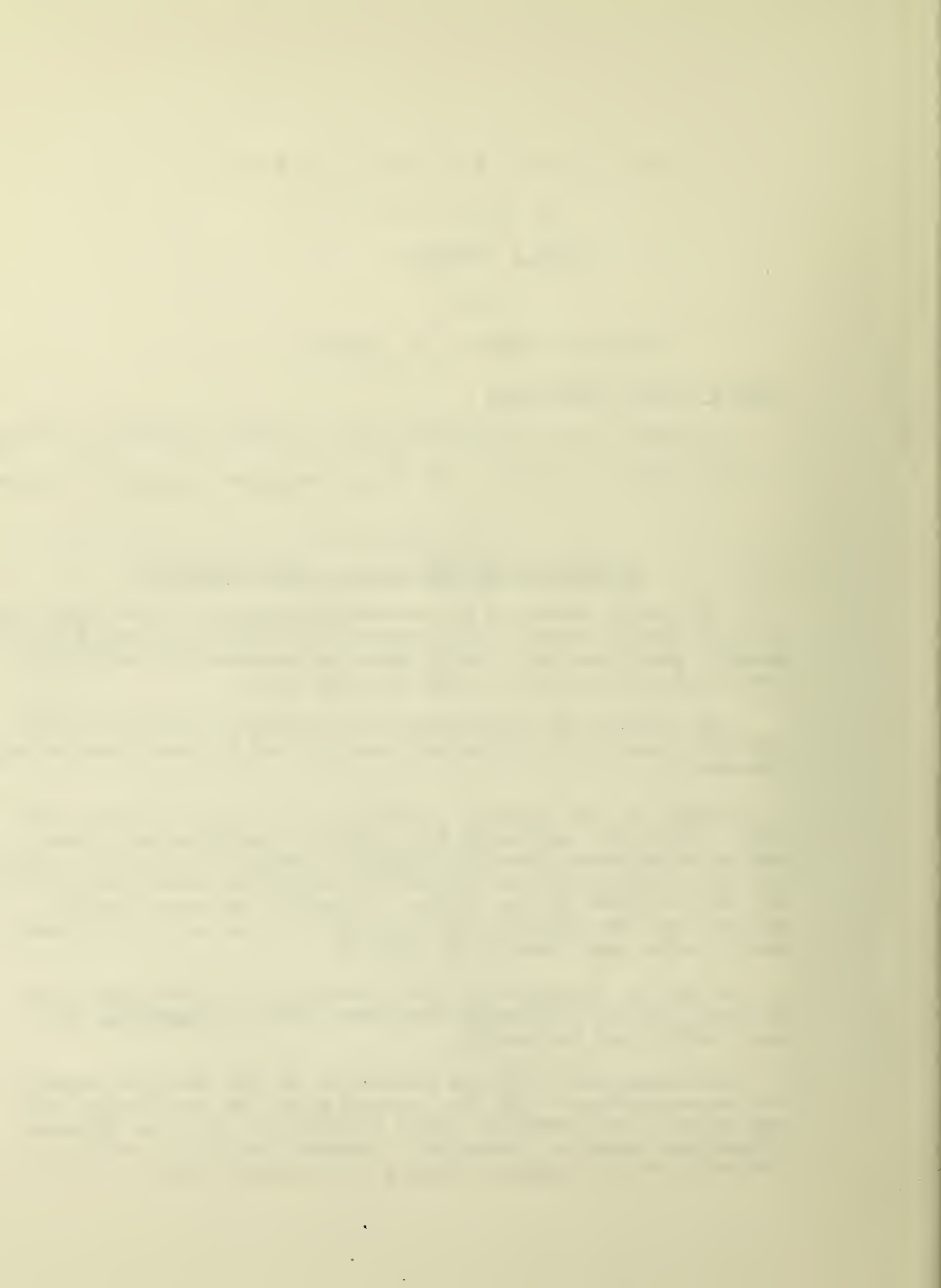
Aldoburgh occupies the seaward margin of a low ridge or plateau and is bounded both north and south by marshes which provide good grazing. This ridge is composed of coralline crag with an overlay of rather sandy soil.

The beach, of a pleasant clean shingle, extends along the full length of the towns frontage and is very popular with visitors.

Owing to its exposed position and owing to factors of tides and winds Aldoburgh has probably suffered more than any existing town from the violent inroads of the sea, which has with the passage of centuries engulfed practically all the ancient part of the town. Recently, however, large sea defence operations have been undertaken and it is hoped that respite may thereby be gained.

As may be expected the main industry is connected with the sea and the Aldoburgh fishermen have a reputation for their skill and hardihood.

The somewhat isolated situation of the Borough renders the communications with the larger towns of the county and region slow and arduous. Rail traffic has to pass through Saxmundham Junction involving a change, while by road the distances to the larger centres are considerable.



A.Cont.

The climate of Aldoburgh has certain features of interest. The annual rainfall is extremely scanty even for the East Coast, while the average hours of sunshine compare favourably with other coastal resorts. In winter the weather is as a rule cold, dry and bracing, while in summer the low rainfall and long hours of sunshine place Aldoburgh among the health resorts.

B. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	1950	1949	1948	1947.
Estimated population	2534	2501	2555	2358
Birth Rate	11.4	12.3	19.17	18.2
Still Birth Rate	-	-	0.39	0.42
Death Rate	14.6	18.3	11.3	12.29
Infantile Death Rate	-	32.2	40.8	23.2

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	22	17	39
Illegitimate			

Comparability Factor = 1.07

Birth Rate

Aldoburgh	11.4
England & Wales	15.8

Still Births: Nil

Deaths (General)

	Male	Female	Total
	16	21	37

Comparability Factor = 0.73

Death Rate

Aldoburgh	14.6
England & Wales	11.6

Deaths under 1 year: Nil

B.Cont.

Causes of Death.

	Male	Female	Total.
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	-	1	1
" " of lung	1	-	1
" " of breast	-	1	1
Other forms of malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	2	2
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	3	6
Other heart diseases	5	6	11
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Nephritis	-	1	1
Other diseases	3	2	5
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
Other accidents	-	1	1
	<u>16</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>37</u>

Age at Death.

	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	Total
Male	1	-	2	3	6	4	-	16
Female	-	1	1	5	4	7	3	<u>21</u>
								<u>37</u>

Average age at Death:- 73.6 years.

Comments on the Statistics.

Population:- The estimate for 1950, when compared with that for the previous year show a slight rise. This increase however, is too small to be a really reliable guide to the trend of the population and we must look to the 1951 census for confirmation. It would seem however, that the tendency is for the population to be maintained.



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B.Cont.

Births:- The birth rate even allowing for the size of the population falls below the level for England and Wales but compares fairly well with our birth rate for 1949.

Deaths:- The death rate, taking into account the size and type of population is remarkably low and compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales. The average age at death is high and the causes of death are mainly those which operate in the older age groups.

The absence of Still Births and Deaths of Children under 1 year of age are matters for much satisfaction, and suggest a good standard of health in the population as well as some practical knowledge of hygiene.

C.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

The County Council as the Local Health Authority is responsible for the services listed in Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946. In addition the administration of the School Health Service is a County responsibility.

Hospital accommodation and specialist facilities is under the care of the Regional Hospital Board. The local arrangements are much as before.

Laboratory facilities are available for bacteriological examinations of pathological material, water and foodstuffs at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich. The advice and assistance provided by this service are invaluable. Chemical analyses are carried out by the Public Analyst, Norwich.

D.1.

Notifiable Disease - Non Tuberculous.

	Totals														Over	1950	1949	1948.
	0	1	3	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	50				
Measles	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	10	
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	1	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Jaundice	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	1	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
															7	29	13	

D(1) Cont.

Corrected Monthly Notification.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec.
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

It will be seen from the above tables that during 1950 infectious disease was negligible in amount and was not of a serious type. Measles was the only disease with more than one notification. The incidence of measles however was only 1.9 cases per 1000 population compared with 8.39 per 1000 for England and Wales.

It is pleasing to note that during the year there were no notifications of food poisoning.

In Aldeburgh as in many other districts, the number of cases of Tuberculosis appears to be increasing. This increase is made up almost entirely by pulmonary cases. I do not think however there is in actual fact more tuberculosis in the community than there was some years ago. On the contrary, I am sure there is less but we are hearing about cases earlier than we did before.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year and no cases were removed from the register.

D.2.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Male		Female		Total
	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	
a) Number of cases on Register at 1.1.50.	2	2	2	1	7
b) Number of cases notified under the Regulations for 1930 for the first time during the year	-	1	4	-	5
c) Number of cases restored to Register having been removed in previous year	-	-	1	-	1
d) Number of cases added to Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	-	-	-	-	-
e) Number of cases removed from Register during year	-	-	-	-	-
f) Number of cases remaining on the register at 31.12.50.	2	3	7	1	13

D.2. Cont.

Particulars of New Cases of Tuberculous.

<u>Location of Disease.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Occupation.</u>
Lungs	31	F	Housewife
"	33	F	"
"	48	F	"
"	63	F	"
Cervical Glands	8	M	Schoolboy.

D. (3) Diphthoria Immunisation.

	1950	1949
Percentage of Preschool children immunised	77.9	70.2
Percentage of all children immunised	72.2	88.3
Reinforcing doses	8	8

The high percentage of children who have received immunisation against diphthoria is a matter for some satisfaction. It is of the utmost importance that the immunisation of the child population should be maintained at an adequate level. The occasional cases of diphthoria which appear from time to time throughout the country in unimmunised children are proof of the continued need for vigilance and care.

E. HOUSING.

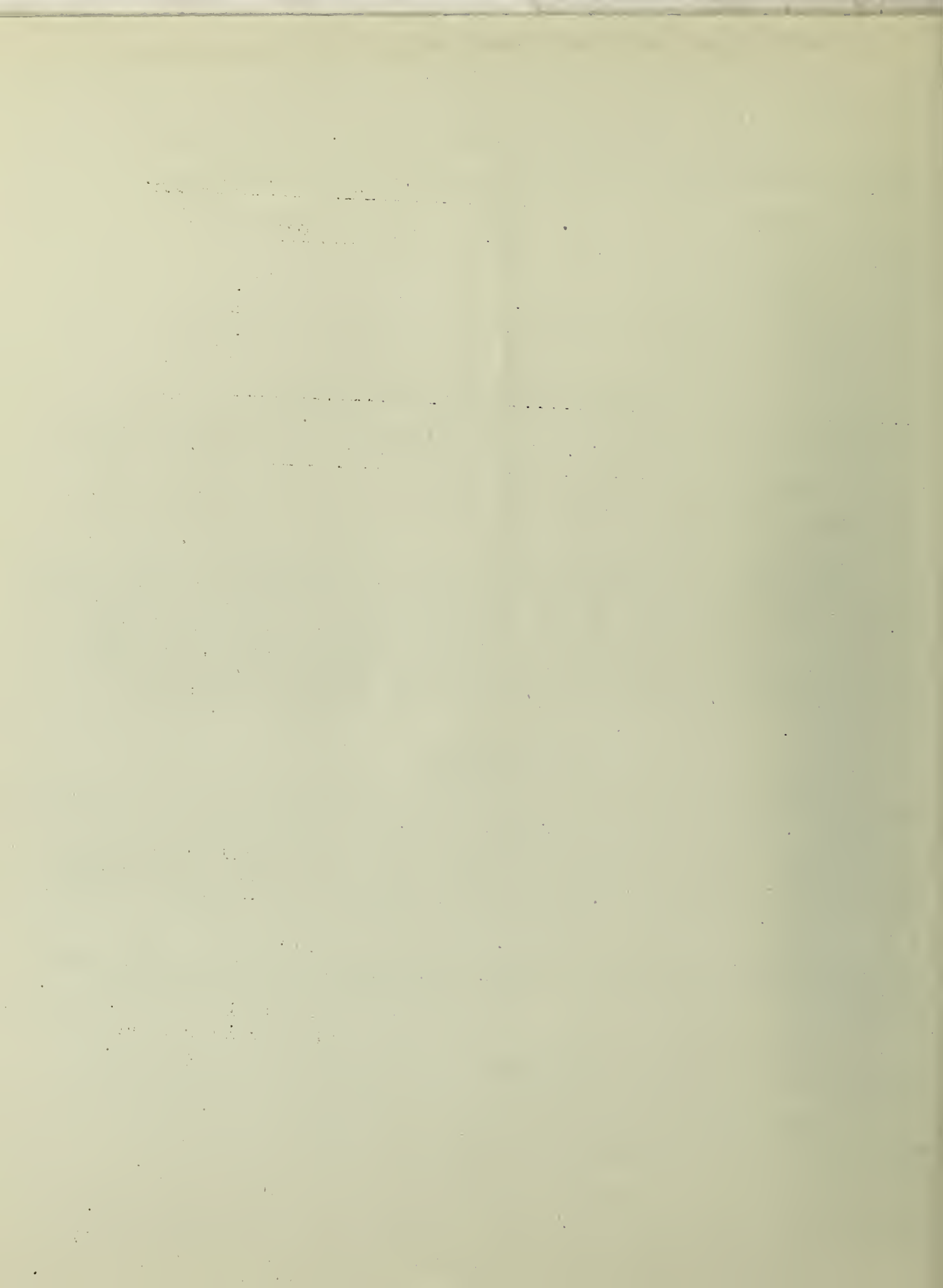
Since the termination of the war the Council has been pursuing an active building programme and by the end of 1950 had built 42 dwellings. This number, together with the 8 pre-war Council Houses, represents a very satisfactory addition to the housing facilities of the town. There is however, still need for more houses as the waiting list during the year did not decrease appreciably.

During the year the general housing situation was kept under review and inspections of a routine character or in response to complaints were carried out. The number of informal notices issued was 23.

During 1950 the Corporation provided 17 new Council Houses and private enterprise provided 11 fresh units of accommodation.

There does not seem to be any overcrowding problem in Aldborough as the average number of persons per house is 2.5.

At the end of the war powers were given to the Authority to requisition empty property to house persons on the waiting list. Although these general powers were withdrawn in 1949, we still have in Aldborough 21 families in requisitioned houses.



F. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

1. REFUSE.

The system of refuse collection has functioned satisfactorily during the year although during the holiday season the increase in the population of the town results in the refuse vehicles working to capacity. Any further seasonal increase in population will entail a review of the situation.

Collection of refuse from domestic premises takes place once a week, while other premises are visited more frequently according to needs.

Controlled tipping on the marshes is the method of disposal employed. By this means low lying portions of marsh which are liable to flooding are reclaimed with a view to turning into pasture.

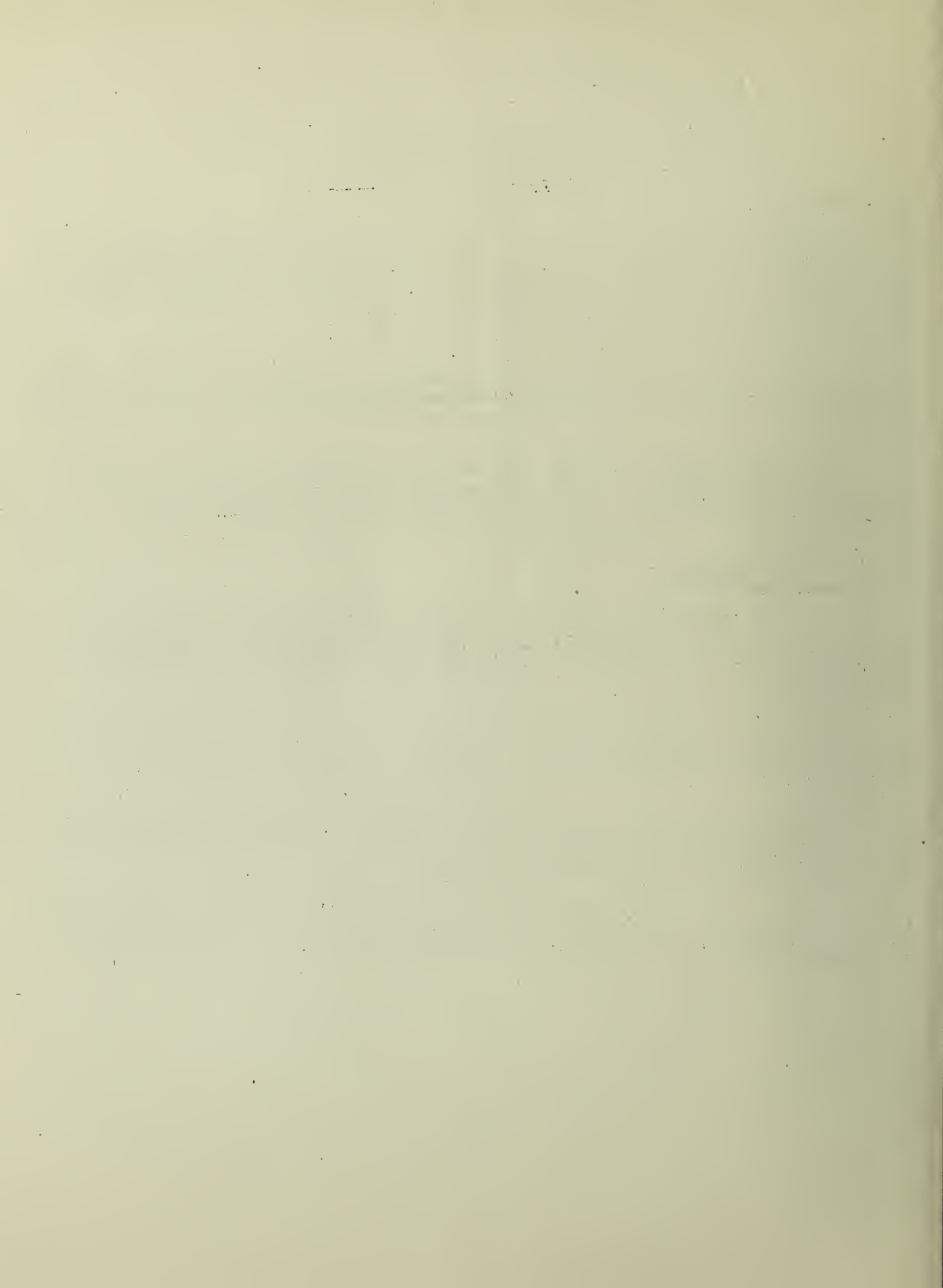
2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During this year the towns sewerage and sewage disposal systems have, on the whole, been adequate, although at times the sewerage on the west side of the town has shown a tendency to overloading.

With the increase of the Housing Sites in the district there has been some extension of the sewerage system to maintain the services.

During the year a number of automatic flushing cisterns on the terminals of some parts of the system have been restored to operation after being disused for some years.

There are approximately 50 cesspools in the peripheral parts of the district. These have been pumped out as necessary by the Corporation Cesspool Emptyer.



G. WATER.

In both quantity and quality the water supplied by the Aldeburgh Waterworks has maintained a satisfactory standard. During 1950, - a round figure total of 54,505,000 gallons was supplied to the town and the average daily consumption per head of the population was in the region of 40 gallons.

The satisfactory quality of the water has been demonstrated by bacteriological and chemical examinations during the year. The chloramine treatment has been continued however and the residual Chlorine in the supply has been estimated regularly and maintained at approximately 0.1 parts per million of Chlorine in the water.

Towards the end of the year a pumping test was carried out at the Waterworks over a period of 14 days to determine the yield. The results were very satisfactory, an average of 357,432 gallons per 24 hours and a grand total of 5,004,068 gallons during the entire period being obtained.

All personnel employed at the Waterworks have been **investigated to ensure that they are not carriers of Enteric or Dysenteric infections**, and every effort is made to ensure that no harmful pollution has access to the towns water supply.

On the new Council Housing Sites extensions of water mains were made during the year.

Water Bacteriological Examination Report.

Plate Count.	Yeastrol agar	3 days	RT	0	acrobically	4 per ml.
"	"	"	2 days	37° C.	"	4 per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli,	MacConkey	2 days,	37° C.			0 per 100 ml.
Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli;						
	a)	Faecal coli				per cent.
	b)	Non-faecal coli				per cent.

Date of report 26.8.50.

Bacteriological findings very satisfactory.

Sgd. P.H.Martin.

M.O. i/c P.H.Laboratory.

1700 C. W. M. 1/2 1/2

H. ACTION UNDER VARIOUS ACTS
AND REGULATIONS.

1. FACTORIES ACT. 1937.

No. of factories employing power	14
" " without power	5
Visits made during year	36
Defects	2
Outworkers	Nil.

2. HOUSING ACTS.

Housing inspections	43
Statutory	-
Informal Notices	24

3. ICE CREAM REGULATIONS.

Number of retailers	11
" manufacturers	1
Inspections	38

4. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. 1938.

Inspections	29
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5. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT. 1948.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the above Act.

6. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS. 1949.

During the year following the receipt of information concerning the infection of milk in a dairy with disease producing germs. I issued a notice in accordance with the above Regulations requiring the Dairyman to have the milk heat-treated before sale. The organism of infection in this case was the germ of Undulant Fever.

This notice was at the end of the year still in force.

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